Quota for sports persons

1978. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the reasons for our miserable failure to produce a single Olympic gold medalist inspite of having enormous human resource;

(b) whether Government are considering to make sports mandatory in schools and all educational institutions and earmarking certain quota for sports persons; and

(c) the reasons for not allowing the sports persons, who have represented the country to sport bodies?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. India is yet to get a gold medal in any of the individual sport events at the Olympics. Although we have a very large population with around 77 crores coming within the below 35 years age group, hardly 5 crores have access to proper sports facilities. With a view to addressing this huge gap in the availability of sports infrastructure, especially at the grassroots level the Ministry has obtained the in-principle approval of the Planning Commission to launch a nation-wide programme entitled the 'Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan', which aims to provide all the village and block panchayats with basic sports infrastructure in a phased manner over a period of 10 yeats.

(b) The Ministry has prepared a draft Comprehensive National Sports Policy which, *inter alia*, lays special emphasis on the integration of sports with formal education at both school and college level. As regards the sports quota in educational intitutions, a large number of higher educational institutions already have such reservations. Since education is a concurrent subject, there is no uniform policy in this regard.

(c) There is no restriction on having sportspersons on sports bodies. Rather, the Government of India scheme entitled "Guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations" provides for the inclusion of prominent sportspersons as members of Sports Federations. It also recommends that a certain minimum percentage, say 25% of the members representing the Federation, should be sportspersons.

Setting up of sports centres by SAI

†1979. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy formulated by Government to promote sports in the country; and

(b) the number of sports centres set up by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in various States of the country during the last three years and details of achievements thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.